

DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes
1/9/14 at 11:00 a.m.

Participants: Lucinda Shih (CCWD), Dave Contreras, Geir Aasen, Julio Adib-Samii and Lauren Damon (DFW), Edmund Yu, Elaine Jeu, Farida Islam, James Gleim, Kevin Reece and Loi Tran (DWR), Craig Anderson and Leigh Bartoo (FWS), Barb Byrne (NMFS), RG Fernando (MWD), Daniel Worth and Eleanor Bartolomeo (SWRCB)

General Announcements

- Starting this DAT conference call, Farida Islam (DWR) will start facilitating the DAT conference calls. Edmund Yu (DWR) will continue to provide support to Islam on DAT when needed.

Sacramento River Fish Monitoring

Preliminary Rotary Screw Trap (RST) Report				
Species*	FWS Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST (Estimated Passage)**	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) RST (Catch)***	DFW Tisdale Weir RST (Catch)	DFW Knights Landing RST (Catch)
Date	12/17/13 to 12/31/13	1/3/14 to 1/8/14	1/2/14 to 1/8/14	1/2/14 to 1/8/14
CHNF	770,160	1,843	7	
CHNLF	6,610	1		
CHNW	55,540			
CHNS	21,811			
Ad-Clipped CHN		1		
SH	240			
Ad-Clipped SH				
GST				
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH= Steelhead, GST= Green Sturgeon. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.				

**At the Red Bluff Diversion Dam, there has been a decline in the biweekly passage total for all reported species with the exception of fall-run Chinook salmon when compared to the reporting period of 12/3/13 to 12/16/13.

***At GCID, there were no data on 1/1 or 1/2 since GCID raised the RST cone for this period due to the lack of personnel working over the holidays. Overall, there has been a decline in winter-run Chinook salmon catch and an increase in fall-run Chinook salmon catch when compared to December 2013.

Graphical summaries of the monitoring data collected at the Sacramento River and at other locations can be found at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>. In addition, the biweekly passage reports of juvenile salmonids sampled at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam are available at http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd_biweekly.aspx.

Hatchery Release Update

The Coleman National Fish Hatchery released its first spring-run surrogate group of approximately 72,000 brood year 2013 late-fall run Chinook salmon into Battle Creek on 1/7. This release group has an estimated fork length of 135 mm and is 100% ad-clipped and coded-wire tagged. If the cumulative loss exceeds 0.5% at the Delta pumping facilities for this surrogate group, then an action response in NMFS RPA Action IV.2.3 will be required for Old and Middle River (OMR) flow management.

In addition, the Coleman National Fish Hatchery is releasing approximately 656,000 steelhead from 1/6 to 1/15 in the Sacramento River at Bend Bridge. This release group has an estimated fork length of 195 mm and is expected to be 100% ad-clipped. There is no incidental take limit or trigger associated with this release at the Delta pumping facilities.

Lastly, the Coleman National Fish Hatchery plans to release approximately 464,000 late-fall run Chinook into Battle Creek from 1/13 to 1/14 as part of its brood year 2013 production group. This release group has an estimated fork length of 135 mm and is 100% ad-clipped and coded-wire tagged. There is no incidental take limit or trigger associated with this release at the Delta pumping facilities.

Delta Fish Monitoring

Preliminary FWS Trawl and Seine Catch Report from 12/29/13 to 1/4/14				
Species*	Beach Seines	Mossdale Trawl	Sacramento Trawl	Chippis Island Trawl
CHNA				1
CHNF				
CHNLF				
CHNW				
CHNS				
Ad-Clipped CHN				2
SH				
Ad-Clipped SH				
DSM	11 (64 to 70 mm, no expression) at Sandy Beach			16 (61 to 72 mm, no expression)
LFS				
SPLT				
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNA= Adult, CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH =Steelhead, DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.				

Information about the Delta fish monitoring data from FWS can also be found at <http://www.fws.gov/stockton/jfmp/>.

Salvage Monitoring

As of 1/8, no listed species have been salvaged at the Delta fish facilities in water year 2014. However, there were some issues with salvage operations at Reclamation's Tracy Fish Collection Facility since the last DAT conference call. First off, primary bypass #4 has been down since 1/3 due to an electric motor problem. The other three primary bypasses are still salvaging fish, but primary bypass #4 usually salvages a greater proportion of the louvered fish.

Second, the Tracy Fish Collection Facility had to shut down salvage operations today (1/9) at 9:45 a.m. due to an oil leak and Geir Aasen (DFW) was waiting for an update on the status of the repairs at the time of the DAT conference call. The Jones Pumping Plant has continued pumping during this unexpected shutdown.

Salvage information is posted on the salvage FTP site (<ftp://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/>). If you cannot access the FTP site, you can also go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/Default.aspx> and click on "Salvage FTP Site."

Smelt Monitoring

Fall Midwater Trawl

DFW completed its 2013 Fall Midwater Trawl memo on 1/2 and DFW distributed the memo to DAT before the conference call. In summary, the 2013 annual index for delta smelt is 18 and the 2013 annual index for longfin smelt is 164. The delta smelt index is the second lowest in the history of the survey, while the longfin smelt index is the eighth lowest in the history of the survey.

For more information about the Fall Midwater Trawl, please visit the DFW website: <http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=FMWT>.

Smelt Larva Survey

Smelt Larva Survey #1 for 2014 occurred from 1/6 to 1/8 and DFW completed a full survey. For this year, DFW expanded monitoring into the Napa River for greater detection of longfin smelt. This survey will be conducted biweekly until mid-March when DFW starts conducting the 20-mm Survey. There should be some preliminary data to report by next week.

For more information about the Smelt Larva Survey, please visit the DFW website:

<http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SLS>.

Spring Kodiak Trawl

Spring Kodiak Trawl #4 for 2014 will begin on 1/13. There should be some preliminary data to report by the end of next week. For more information about the Spring Kodiak Trawl #1, please visit the DFW website: <http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SKT>.

Smelt Working Group

There were no changes in entrainment risk for both delta smelt and longfin smelt, or to the hydrology over the past week. Entrainment risk remains low and the hydrology remains dry. However, the Smelt Working Group decided to meet this past Monday (1/6) to review the delta smelt incidental take limits for water year 2014. Based on the 2013 Fall Midwater Trawl index, the adult delta smelt incidental take limit is 155 fish with a concern level of 116 fish, and the juvenile delta smelt incidental take limit is 1,007 fish with a concern level of 671 fish. In addition, the monthly incidental take limits and concern levels for juvenile delta smelt can be found in the table below.

	April	May	June	July
Concern Level	6	231	591	671
Incidental Take Limit	9	347	887	1,007

The Smelt Working Group will have a face to face meeting on 1/13 to discuss the need to add more Spring Kodiak Trawl surveys based on a request from the State Water Contractors to DFW.

The Smelt Working Group notes and FWS determinations are posted at

http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt_working_group.cfm.

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Working Group

DOSS did not meet during the last two weeks of December after reviewing the relevant monitoring data that were available at the time. The most recent meeting occurred on Tuesday (1/7) and DOSS provided no advice to NMFS or the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT). Key discussion points from the DOSS meeting are below.

NMFS RPA Implementation Update

- RPA Action IV.1.2 (Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gate operations): The 12/15 to 1/31 phase of RPA Action IV.1.2 is in effect. This phase of the action requires the DCC gates to remain closed unless there are NMFS approved experiments that need the DCC gates to open from 12/15 to 1/31 or if NMFS approves that the DCC gates be opened for water quality needs from 12/15 to 1/5. These exceptions are not in place; thus, the DCC gates are closed.

A new phase of RPA Action IV.1.2 begins on 2/1, which requires the DCC gates remain closed per D-1641.

- RPA Action IV.2.3 (OMR flow management): DWR and Reclamation must implement a calendar based OMR flow of no more negative than -5,000 cfs in compliance with RPA Action IV.2.3 that started on 1/1. No triggers have been exceeded so far this year for more positive OMR flow. At this time, RPA Action IV.2.3 is not controlling operations. Instead, operations are controlled by D-1641 standards like outflow and water quality.

Winter-Run Juvenile Production Estimate (JPE)

NMFS still does not have all the information needed to calculate the JPE for the 2013/2014 outmigration year that is used to set the incidental take limit for winter-run Chinook salmon, and the daily loss density triggers of older juvenile Chinook salmon for the implementation of RPA Action IV.2.3. As advised by DOSS on 12/17/13, RPA Action IV.2.3 should be implemented using the triggers that do not depend on the JPE¹.

Spring-Run Surrogates (see Hatchery Release Update for release information)

Usually hatchery late-fall run Chinook salmon designated as spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates are released by the Coleman National Fish Hatchery in conjunction with flow cues that indicate movement of naturally produced yearling spring-run Chinook salmon out of natal tributaries like Mill or Deer Creek. Due to dry conditions, low river flows and clear water, the Coleman National Fish Hatchery did not release its entire production group or any spring-run surrogate groups in December. However, all spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates will need to be released in January even if DOSS wants to hold out for some rainfall. Late-fall run Chinook salmon at the Coleman National Fish Hatchery are in smolting conditions and there is concern that they will pass through these conditions and will not be inclined to migrate if released past January.

Tracy Fish Collection Facility Secondary Channel Construction and Inspections

NMFS previously asked DOSS to provide guidance on sampling protocols during disruptions to the usual salvage process during the inspections before the installation of new fish screens that will require the shutdown of salvage operations and not pumping at the Tracy Fish Collection Facility. However, this issue is now outside of the realm of DOSS. Instead, NMFS will work directly with the Tracy Fish Collection Facility on developing sampling protocols and will provide DOSS the opportunity to review the sampling protocols.

DOSS notes and related documents are posted at

http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/central_valley/water_operations/doss.html.

Operations

Preliminary Summary for 1/9/14			
State Water Project (SWP)		Central Valley Project (CVP)	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	700	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	800
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	285	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	335
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	620	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	600 (Will be dropping to 500 cfs on 1/10 at 1:00 a.m.)
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	950	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	3,250
		Stanislaus – Goodwin Reservoir Releases (cfs)	200
DELTA OPERATIONS			
Outflow (cfs)	~5,600	14-day Average of OMR Flow as of 1/8/14 (cfs)	-1,827
X2 (km)	> 82	5-day Average of OMR Flow as of 1/8/14 (cfs)	-1,683
Export/Inflow (%)	20 (3-day average)	DCC Gates	Closed

¹ For the list of triggers, see page 76 of the 2009 RPA with 2011 Amendments, provided in enclosure 2 of the document at http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/Central_Valley/Water%20Operations/Operations,%20Criteria%20and%20Plan/040711_ocap_opinion_2011_amendments.pdf.

Reservoir Releases: At the time of the DAT conference call, DWR did not expect reservoir releases to be reduced further from current scheduled releases.

Electrical Conductivity (EC) at Jersey Point: Daily EC is coming down at Jersey Point in the last couple of days. Daily EC was at 1.92 mS/cm on 1/6, 1.89 mS/cm on 1/7, and 1.88 mS/cm on 1/8.

EC at Old River near Tracy: DWR was asked on whether the EC at Old River near Tracy was below the D-1641 standard since the standard was recently exceeded on 12/25/13 when the maximum 30-day running average of the mean daily EC was greater than 1.0 mS/cm. Loi Tran (DWR) did not have the data on hand and will follow up via e-mail after the DAT conference call.

After the DAT conference call, Loi Tran and Andy Chu (DWR) followed up via e-mail and revealed that the maximum 30-day running average of the mean daily EC was still above 1.0 mS/cm at Old River near Tracy and never went below 1.0 mS/cm since exceeding the standard. A summary of EC at Old River near Tracy can be found in the table below and also at <http://water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/DeltaWQ.pdf>

OLD RIVER NEAR TRACY EC		
Date	Daily EC (mS/cm)	30-day Mean EC (mS/cm)
1/5/14	1.12	1.08
1/6/14	1.13	1.09
1/7/14	1.16	1.09
1/8/14	1.18	1.10

A summary of daily operations can also be viewed at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf>.

Next Conference Call: The next DAT conference call is scheduled on 1/16 at 11:00 a.m.